

What's New in the MPDC

OCTOBER 8, 2001

CHIEF RAMSEY UPDATES COUNCIL ON MPDC PREPAREDNESS FOR TERRORIST ATTACKS

In testimony before the DC Council on Friday, Chief Ramsey praised the MPDC's actions in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, but said the Department is refining its emergency response plans in light of insights gained from those attacks. Ramsey said that because DC appeared to be a likely target following the initial attacks on the World Trade Center, the MPDC quickly recalled all of its officers and deployed them at critical installations and key intersections to help direct traffic. In addition, the newly upgraded Joint Command and Control Center – still under construction at the time – was pressed into service even before the plane hit the Pentagon. By having key federal and local agencies in one high-tech venue, officials were able to access, verify and disseminate critical law enforcement

information from the earliest moments

of the unfolding event. Chief Ramsey

told the Council that in visits to both the Pentagon site and “ground zero” in lower Manhattan, he learned the importance of having backup command and communications capabilities, as well as the right equipment and training. He also reminded the Council that terrorist attacks seldom “go by the book,” so a great deal of ingenuity and improvisation will always be required. Read the Chief's complete statement at:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

Earlier in the week, the DC Council recognized members of the MPDC, as well as other DC public safety officials, who assisted with the Pentagon rescue and recovery efforts – including Harley and King, two MPDC cadaver dogs assisted in evidence recovery. For details on the ceremonial resolutions introduced by Councilmember David Catania, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

Also this past week, Michigan Congressman Joe Knollenberg, chairman of the DC Appropriations Subcommittee, toured the upgraded Joint Command and Control Center with Chief Ramsey and discussed the Department's preparedness needs. More information at:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

TICKETING LEVELS, SOME SPEEDS DECLINE DURING FIRST FEW MONTHS OF PHOTO RADAR PROGRAM

Statistics released this week by the MPDC show that the ticketing levels and average speeds in some enforcement zones appear to be declining in just the first few months of DC's photo radar speeding reduction program. The average number of tickets issued per hour by the mobile photo radar units declined from 170 during the July warning period to about 105 during August. The average speeds detected in 25, 30, 35 and 40 mph zones also declined between July and August. Just over 31,000 Notices of Infraction were issued through the photo radar program in August and September. About 6,000 were paid, resulting in the collection of approximately \$420,000 in fines. In August, fewer than one in three tickets were issued to DC drivers; the remainder were sent to motorists from Maryland, Virginia and other states. Photo radar is designed to reduce chronic speeding on DC streets and highways by consistently and fairly enforcing speeding laws. The program was announced in early July and, following a month-long warning period, actual tickets were issued beginning August 6. For complete information about photo radar, go to:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm

MPDC PROVIDES UPDATES ON “E-MAIL INVESTIGATION” DURING HUMAN RIGHTS HEARINGS

No MPDC officials have been brought up on criminal or civil rights charges at this time in the ongoing investigation into offensive messages sent over the Department's Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) system. However, prosecutors continue to examine 20 cases and internal administrative proceedings are continuing against dozens of officers. That was the update provided to the DC Commission on Human Rights earlier this week by Assistant Chief Brian Jordan, head of the MPDC's Office of Professional Responsibility, during public hearings on the matter. Jordan said that as part of the ongoing investigation, the MPDC has sent 50 of the most serious, “Level I” potential violations to the US Attorney's Office for review. Thus far, the USAO has declined prosecution in 30 cases and is still looking at the remaining 20. The MPDC has also begun issuing discipline to several members in the probe – both Level I and Level III (least serious) cases. Jordan said the investigation will likely continue for some time, given the time-consuming nature of the individual investigations. He pledged the Department would be thorough and fair in its probe. See his complete statement to the Commission at:

mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2001/100301.shtm

THREE COMMUNITY TRAINERS HONORED BY MAYOR FOR OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE

Three MPDC training specialists were presented with Customer Service Excellence Awards this past week for their innovative, customer-focused methods of delivering community policing training to DC residents. Marsha Hott, Sgt. Ray Danieli and Sgt. Danny Ewell – all members of the Community Partnership Section – were among two dozen District Government employees honored by Mayor Williams with DC's first awards specifically for customer service. The Mayor presented the awards as part of the District's first observance of National Customer Service Week, which ran from October 1-5. Hott, Danieli and Ewell are responsible for delivering “Partnerships for Problem Solving” training, an innovative program that has trained several hundred DC residents, police officers and other agency representatives in the theory and practice of community policing. Read more about their award-winning performance at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on News Room)

Learn more about Partnerships for Problem Solving and how you can get involved in this important community-building and public safety project by going to:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/ppsfactsheet.shtm

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY REMAINS UP

Last month, the US District Court ruled DC's Sex Offender Registry statute to be unconstitutional and ordered the MPDC to stop public dissemination of the information. The District appealed the ruling, and this past week the Court of Appeals granted the city's request to stay the order prohibiting public disclosure of the information. While the matter remains under appeal, the Sex Offender Registry is still available through the MPDC Website and in hard copies contained in district stations and other police facilities. For background on the Sex Offender Registry and to search the registry itself, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/sor/sor.shtm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV